Hannah Susko

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AP English

This I Believe

I believe that sports can make a significant impact in someone’s life. Every athlete knows that being a part of a team teaches valuable lessons that one can use for the rest of his or her life.  Being on a team promotes leadership, responsibility, respect, communication skills, dedication, confidence and determination.

            Determination is one of the most important qualities in an athlete. Willingness to work as hard as possible is what makes great athletes. One of the best-known examples of hard work and determination is retired NBA star Michael Jordan. Michael Jordan is known as the best basketball player ever, and he has one of the most impressive records of any player in the NBA. But when he was a sophomore in high school, he was cut from his varsity team. Despite being cut one year, he came back and led his high school to a state championship, and then went on to play for UNC and eventually the NBA. Jordan has said that when he used to get tired at practice he would visualize his high school locker room and the list that his name was not on when he was a sophomore.  His past experiences in sports, both good and bad have made him a better person.

        I can personally say that I don't think I would be the same person if I did not grow up playing sports. I think being on a team has helped me in many aspects of my life. Learning responsibility and dedication are two of the most important things I've learned in playing high school basketball. In grade school, I learned about team work and respect in playing soccer and basketball, but it was in high school when I really discovered what dedication meant. Having practices on Sundays and staying at school until six o'clock at night not only taught me about dedication, but also a big lesson in time management. Balancing clubs, basketball, and homework is extremely difficult in season, but I believe learning how to balance will help me immensely in college. The most important thing I have learned in high school athletics is determination. When I came to Fairview I did not get much playing time as a freshman. Sophomore year was not much different except our coaches had been replaced. Junior year was great because I had more playing time and our team respected each other, not like we ever had in the past. Staying on the team my freshmen and sophomore year was incredibly difficult. Every night when I would get home late or nights as a freshman when I sat the bench I would question if it was worth it.  I think sticking with it and not giving up shows that I have learned a lot about dedication in my years of playing sports and hopefully my last season will be the best of all. I believe that playing sports has taught me valuable lessons that will help me later in life.

Hannah Susko

4 January 2010

AP English Literature and Composition

This I Believe Reflection

I wrote my essay on the way sports can have an influence on peoples’ lives. I wrote about the lessons that people can learn from playing a sport and how people can take what they learn in sports and apply it to real life. I only had to do two skills pages, so I am happy that I am improving in areas like using active and passive voice. The first skills page I had to do was in the first paragraph when I had an issue with pronoun and antecedent agreement. I can see why I made this mistake because it sounded correct when I wrote it but I had used “their” instead of “his or her.” I can avoid this mistake in the future by checking my lower order concerns sheet before turning in my papers. My second mistake concerns the use of commas, which I often have problems with. I forgot to put a comma in after an introductory element. I can prevent making this mistake again by reading my paper out loud and thinking about when I need to put a comma in. If I were to redo this essay I would probably proof read a couple more times and look for mistakes.